

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 002480

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2013

TAGS: [KRIM](#) [SNAR](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: ORGANIZED CRIME CONTINUES TO THRIVE IN CANADA

Classified By: Pol MC Brian Flora for reasons 1.5(b) and (d).

11. (U) Summary: In its latest report on organized crime activity, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada indicates that organized criminal groups in Canada are increasingly utilizing emerging technology to commit crimes such as fraud and money laundering, and that they are extensively involved in the large-scale cultivation and trafficking of residentially-grown marijuana. End Summary.

12. (U) Criminal Intelligence Service Canada collects intelligence and raw data from the criminal intelligence units of law enforcement agencies across Canada. The staff of the Central Bureau of CISC is located in Ottawa, and is made up of employees of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and personnel detailed from other police departments and government agencies. CISC prepares and publishes an annual report on organized crime in Canada; the most recent report, covering activity through May 16, 2003, was released August 125. The report presents an overview of the current activities of five broad organized crime groups in Canada: Aboriginal based, Asian based, Eastern European-based, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and Traditional (Italian-based). Organized crime at Canada's marine ports, in which all of the major crime groups are involved, is discussed. The report also evaluates trends in certain criminal activities in Canada: contraband tobacco and alcohol, organized crime and the diamond industry, the illicit movement of firearms, technology and crime, the sexual exploitation of children, and street gangs.

13. (C) The report describes some victories by law enforcement, including operations targeting outlaw motorcycle gangs and narcotics seizures at the Port of Halifax. But the report makes it clear that organized criminal activity continues throughout Canada, and that organized criminal groups are constantly seizing on new targets of opportunity and branching into new criminal ventures. While the Canadian press has reported that organized crime is on the rise in Canada, Shawn Scromeda, counsel in Justice Canada's Criminal Law Policy Section who works on organized crime issues, described that view as "alarmist." Scromeda told poloff that Canada lacks baseline indicators with which to measure whether organized crime is increasing or decreasing, and said the CISC report is intended to serve as a "snapshot" of current organized crime activity. Scromeda noted that the Canadian Parliament approved several significant amendments to the criminal code in December 2001 which target organized crime, and he believes the impact of these amendments is just beginning to be felt.

14. (U) The complete text of the 2003 Annual Report on Organized Crime in Canada can be found at the following internet address: www.cisc.gc.ca.

Visit Canada's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/ottawa>

KELLY